

hours and days indeed. Genial intimacy soon developed on the base of simple hospitality and kindly understanding. The temporal bone in its important neighborly relationship to the brain and its sinuses; Macewen's triangle as a practically infallible guide into the depth of the middle ear by means of the gentle and steady use of searcher and dental burr in its then still simplest form—the quiet, quick, and safe method of entering the brain which snatched many a patient, it seemed, from the very clutches of death. The time spent under the humane clear-cut influence of this original thinker and genial teacher who, with pencil in hand, after many a dinner would explain the doings of the day, illustrate them with drawings, exhort and encourage—the most inspiring and useful study-time of my life was thus spent—gradually confidence was established; the Highland home was visited; prejudices and fears of too fatiguing a trip for the paterfamilias were conquered. I felt hopeful, and thus it came about that Dr. Rixford and myself met our guest some months afterwards on the overland train, eager to do his work and teach.

Almost directly, we escorted him to the old, big lecture hall of the Cooper Medical College. Whilst he was looking about and finding wall-space for his drawings, Dr. Lane came in. For about ten minutes they conversed—then our venerable and loved chief turned to me and with an appreciative expression of his face, shook hands, saying, "The man will do." And so he did. To me, what a feast it was! What an encouragement for the future!

The students and graduates of both medical schools, many visitors from the interior, up and down the coast, drank in Macewen's words to develop directive forces and sources of better work within themselves and the institutions they belonged to. A new era of medical thought and work had been inaugurated on our coast, Macewen as the first, followed by such lecturers as Clifford Albutt, Michael Forster, Manson, Fuchs, and others, brought the far isolated West nearer to the old and wiser medical culture of the East and the trans-oceanic centers. Thus they fulfilled Dr. Lane's most cherished thought.

Blessed be the memory of him who founded—

Blessed be the memory of the men who carried out his work.

2209 Laguna Street.

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**The Ultraviolet Rays of the Sun**—Alfred F. Hess, New York (Journal A. M. A.), concludes his review as follows: Rickets affords an excellent criterion for the investigation of the biologic activity of the sun's rays, for we know within narrow limits the band of ultraviolet radiations that is effective in preventing or curing this disorder. A comparison of the yearly amount of actual sunshine in cities in the temperate zone demonstrates that there is no close parallelism between the incidence of rickets and annual sunshine. It shows, furthermore, that the occurrence of rickets does not depend on an equable distribution of sunshine throughout the year. In the Panama Canal Zone, where rickets is practically non-existent, not only is the yearly sunshine less than in New York, but it is less evenly distributed; there are fewer hours of sunshine during the rainy season in Colon or Ancon than during the corresponding winter period in New York. The determining factor is the quality, not the quantity, of the sun's rays—the amount of intensity of those short ultraviolet radiations which alone are of value in preventing rickets.

## EARLY CALIFORNIAN MEDICAL JOURNALS

By EMMET RIXFORD, M. D., *San Francisco*

EARLY California medical journals are a typical product of Pioneer times in California. The men who came during the Gold Rush—who really made the state and gave it its character, its foundation in romance—were strong men, for no considerable number of weaklings could possibly get here. The pioneers may not all have been good men, for their variety was great, but it can safely be said that they were not goody-goody men.

It is true that among the medical men there were many so-called "natural-born doctors," many men—some of them capable, good men—who had no diploma, but there were also not a few college graduates—young men of family, of imagination, of determination, and possessed of that inspiring gift—the pioneering spirit.

It was a time when men stood up, man to man, ready to defend their position, and if we read between the lines it is evident that occasion frequently offered when defense was necessary; a time of rigid medical ethics, when violation of medical ethics brought greater personal censure, greater acrimony.

Many were the pamphleteers, and a spicy history of early Californian medicine might be compiled from even the few pamphlets which have been preserved.

The first really high-class medical journal published in California—and it now constitutes by far the most interesting and important volume in the history of medicine on the Pacific Coast—was the California State Medical Journal, founded and edited by John F. Morse (Sr.), a quarterly of excellent form published in Sacramento in 1856-7.

Its foundation was intimately associated with the organization of the State Medical Society, and its first number contains the full minutes of the meeting of that organization. These minutes are so important historically, the resolutions contained therein so far-seeing and so illuminating, in view of the recent emasculation of our medical law, that they deserve reproduction in our present State Journal.

Here we can only refer to those parts having to do with the founding of Morse's journal.

Pursuant to an invitation addressed to the members of the medical profession throughout the state of California, calling upon them to meet in general convention in the city of Sacramento on Wednesday, the twelfth day of March, 1856, for the purpose of forming a state medical society with auxiliary societies in each town or county, a numerous delegation from the various sections of the state assembled at Pioneer Hall on the date mentioned at 3 o'clock p. m. Seventy-six men answered roll-call, representing sixteen counties of Central and Northern California. Sacramento had the largest representation, numbering twenty-eight; San Francisco next, numbering thirteen. Dr. John F. Morse was elected temporary chairman. A constitution was adopted and under it Dr. B. F. Keene of El Dorado was elected the society's first president.

In an important resolution of declaration of poli-

cies of the new society, offered by Dr. Thomas M. Logan of Sacramento, this paragraph occurs:

**Resolved,** That a medical journal, conducted in accordance with the spirit of these resolutions, and maintaining a firm and independent stand against the malpractices and delinquencies of diplomatized, as well as all unqualified practitioners, shall receive the support and hearty co-operation of this Association, and that a committee of three be appointed to canvass the whole subject in the premises, and report, before the final adjournment of this Association, some practical plan for the accomplishment of the end in view.

The committee reported at the next session that Dr. John F. Morse had been engaged for some time past in making preliminary arrangements for the publication of an independent medical journal on his own responsibility, and that Dr. Morse would undertake the publication if guaranteed two hundred subscribers at \$5 per annum. Thus the journal was launched.

A few of the historically important matters brought up in the State Society meeting, and appearing in the minutes, may be briefly mentioned: The motion of Dr. J. T. McLane of Yuba City, to memorialize the state legislature to enact a law elevating the board of censors (of the society) into a board of medical examiners; the motion of E. S. Cooper memorializing the legislature to enact a law legalizing anatomical dissection and providing source of dissecting material; of Dr. O. Harvey of Placerville, urging the formation of county medical societies throughout the state.

On motion of Dr. Dustin of Nevada County, Dr. E. S. Cooper was invited to address the society on the experiments made by him in ligating the abdominal aorta in animals. This was the first paper on a scientific subject read before the California State Medical Society.

The journal contains, of course, the constitution adopted by the society, the code of medical ethics of the National Medical Association, a paper by Dr. A. Wierzbicky of San Francisco on the History of Medicine (general), and several by Dr. Thomas M. Logan on the History of Medicine in California. These latter papers expanded into studies in climatology, containing rainfall and temperature tables.

The second number of the journal was late in appearing. The publisher apologized, giving as his excuse the fact that the amount of type in his establishment was so small that the meteorological tables of Dr. Logan, which were nearly ready for the press, had to be distributed to meet the requirements of election returns in the newspaper attached to the publication department, and also to be able to lay before the readers a report concerning a case of laceration of the vagina which was considered too important to wait the issue of the third number. (The importance of the case was largely medico-legal.)

The troubles of the medical editor in California may be inferred from the publication on the last page of the second number a list of the subscribers; those who had paid their subscriptions were marked by an asterisk, those who had not paid, by a dagger.

At the second meeting of the State Society, February 11, 1857, Dr. Cooper, vice-president, presided because of the death of Dr. Keene. Dr. Henry Gib-

bons was elected president. At this meeting Dr. Morse stated his inability to continue the journal, preferring to transfer the journal to the State Society. The society was reluctant to undertake the task of publishing the journal, so it appropriated \$50 from the treasury to lessen the losses of Dr. Morse and started a new list of subscriptions. At the same meeting the secretary was instructed to drop from the roll all members delinquent in payment of their dues.

The society had but one more meeting, that of 1858, before it dissolved, but before this the journal ceased publication. The editor wrote:

"We regret that we must submit the fourth number of our Journal to the world without sufficient encouragement to continue the publication. The regret, however, is palliated with the assurance of relief from continued pecuniary loss and a vast amount of labor and anxiety, which are more agreeable in theory than practice. We had an idea that we were offering the profession a good opportunity for the establishment of a respectable medical journal, but we have not the slightest disposition to defend this idea against any positive or apathetic conviction of the general profession to the contrary."

Dr. Morse's last word is to subscribers:

"If the seventy-four subscribers of our small list who have not paid their subscription have no objection to remit us the amount due, we will receive it with becoming grace. The sum, if sent us, would, of course, materially abridge our losses, and consequently would be a source of convenience. We would not, however, inflict a harsh call upon delinquents in a country in which *five dollars* is getting to be a sum of such embarrassing magnitude and scarcity."

The stirring editorials by Dr. Morse are well worth reading today: one on Pacific Coast diseases and another describing the atrocities of farming out the counties' indigent sick, urging the building of county hospitals, and the cleaning up of those already in existence.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Morse later moved to San Francisco, and in the summer of 1863 became a member of the faculty of the Medical College of the Pacific, founded by E. S. Cooper in 1858.

The Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal had the longest life of any of the early medical periodicals of California. It was founded in 1858, published in San Francisco and edited by John B. Trask and David Wooster. It started out bravely with short original articles by H. H. Toland, J. Morrison, Isaac Rowell, and E. S. Cooper, from which one may judge that Trask and Wooster made a definite effort to preserve harmony in the local profession and have the support of the various factions, but in the third number the editor, Dr. Wooster, objecting to the report before the meeting of the State Society two weeks previously by Dr. E. S. Cooper of the first case of Caesarean section performed in California, and one of the few cases in the world in which the mother lived, published his (Wooster's) account of the case. (Wooster had been called in consultation and had consented to and assisted in the operation.) His account was a scathing criticism of Dr. Cooper.

This is not the place to take up the merits of the controversy, nor does space permit, but the interested reader of today will find, even in Dr. Wooster's account of the case, much that is illuminating in explaining the factional differences which divided

the profession in San Francisco. Dr. Wooster naively says: "We operated (no other physician present), he using the knife."

The after-treatment, in the light of today, is notable, and gives us a striking contemporary picture of the surgery of the fifties. Dr. Wooster says:

"We used diaphoretics, aperients, opiates, carminatives, tonics, stimulants, etc., etc., according to symptoms. After the middle of the fourth day she had porter, California wine, bottled soda, eggs, small birds, mutton chops, loin steaks, rice, etc., etc., as much as she desired. The first three days a single thickness of domestic moistened in cold water is applied to the exposed abdomen, over the wound to get the refrigerating action of evaporation. As soon as suppuration is established, this dressing is replaced by a warm poultice of bread and milk, which is continued until she is well. A weak dilution of chloride of soda was several times injected through the vagina into the womb, from which it issued at the abdominal wound and did not return by the natural passages. These cleansings diminished very much the almost gangrenous foetor of the first days of suppuration. The abdominal flatus was drawn off by an esophagus tube per rectum. A silver catheter remained constantly in the urethra, by which the bladder was always kept nearly empty. The bladder was incised, at first accidentally, then purposely, during the operation, before the womb was reached. These slight openings closed kindly, by first intention."

It may be noted that the woman was 36 years old, primipara, in labor fifty-six hours, the presentation occipito-posterior. Ergot had been given. No progress had been made for twenty hours. The woman recovered and was able to walk in forty days; the child weighed eleven and one-half pounds.

After the publication of this article, Dr. Cooper did not contribute to the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal. Thus we get a side-light on the savage criticism which appears in the journal on the Medical College of the Pacific which Cooper organized later in the year.

Nearly every number contained an article or case report by Dr. Toland, often illustrated by excellent lithographs by Britten & Ray.

The journal published annually a register of physicians in the state.

In the second volume, the journal published a caustic criticism by Dr. J. D. B. Stillman of the quality of medical literature served to the medical profession in the journal, showing by the deadly parallel where Dr. Toland got his material. Toland replied—plausibly, but with argument *ad hominem*. The two articles are spicy reading, and at the end the editor closes with the words: "If our friends wish to quarrel or fight, we recommend gunpowder and lead, not types and printer's ink."

A number of articles, entitled "Historical Sketches," by V. Fourgeaud, show much discriminating reading and are noteworthy in the history of medicine.

From its beginning, the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal seemed fated to change sides, being alternately the organ of one institution or another.

After Cooper's death in 1862, the Medical Col-

lege of the Pacific lasted but two years. The students all went into the newly founded Toland Medical College, and several members of the faculty followed, notably Dr. L. C. Lane and Dr. Henry Gibbons. In April, 1865, the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal united with Cooper's little journal, the San Francisco Medical Press, under the editorship of Dr. Henry Gibbons. It then might be considered the organ of Toland Medical College.

When Lane and Gibbons seceded from the Toland College in 1870, reorganizing the old school, the journal went too, and remained, as it were, the organ of the Medical College of the Pacific for the next forty years.

Under the editorship of Henry Gibbons and Henry Gibbons, Jr., in 1884, it absorbed the San Francisco Western Lancet, and Dr. Henry Gibbons, Jr., the editor, associated with himself in the conduct of the journal Dr. Whitwell, then editor of the Lancet.

Whitwell eventually took the journal and presently sold it to Dr. W. F. McNutt, then Professor of Medicine in Toland Medical College, by this time the University of California Medical Department. So the journal in turn became the organ of the University of California Medical School.

Dr. McNutt associated with himself Dr. Winslow Anderson, who succeeded to the journal, taking it with him when he left McNutt. Anderson organized the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco, and the journal became the organ of this new school. Under these auspices the journal lasted a number of years, dying in 1917, ending a continuous life of some fifty-nine years, in its earlier and middle periods being well edited and having a marked influence in medical professional matters in the state of California.

Not the least interesting of the early medical periodicals is the San Francisco Medical Press, published by Dr. E. S. Cooper, beginning January, 1860.

In the light of the above, Dr. Cooper's statement of his objects in establishing a medical journal in San Francisco is amusing:

*First.* To encourage unanimity of feeling and concurrence of action among medical men of this city and state, in the organization of new, and in perpetuating the old associations for medical improvement.

*Second.* To inquire into and remove, as far as possible, the sources of discord which have reigned to so great an extent in these organizations.

*Third.* To vindicate the rights of all honorable medical men when unjustly assailed.

*Fourth.* To offer a medium for the publication of the numerous interesting and often anomalous cases treated by practitioners on this coast.

*Fifth.* To encourage medical men of the Pacific Coast to extend their subscriptions to medical journals of the Atlantic States and Europe.

The design is more to furnish original articles than to reproduce those which have already been published in medical journals. To accomplish the above objects, Dr. Cooper promised "to labor for these results uninfluenced by passion, fear or favor." It is evident that Cooper was still smarting under

the attack of the malpractice suit, and felt that he needed a medium of publication of his original work.

This original work is historically of great interest, including as it does considerable surgical experimentation on animals. Cooper advanced, with considerable blare of trumpets, a number of new surgical principles, of which several are important: One, that admission of air into joints is not a cause of irritation or injury; that division of entire ligaments about the joints is no impediment to their ultimate strength and mobility; that large wounds of joints are less serious than small; that early and wide incision of joints is far more imperiously demanded than opening of other parts similarly affected.

After Dr. Cooper's death in 1862 at the age of 40, the Press was edited for a short time by Dr. L. C. Lane, the last volume by Dr. R. Beverly Cole and Dr. Henry Gibbons.

The Western Lancet, founded in 1862 by E. Trainor and H. P. Babcock as editors, in Volume 9 became the San Francisco Western Lancet, with Dr. A. W. Perry and William H. Mays as editors, and in Volume 10, Dr. W. S. Whitwell.

It was a monthly of pleasing form, but had a small circulation. In 1884 it was merged in the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal.

Another ambitious attempt to furnish for the medical profession of California a dignified medium for publication was the California Medical Gazette, a small quarto which endured for only two years. Volume 1, 1868, names as editors Thomas Bennett, J. Campbell Sharpe, and W. F. McNutt; the second volume, J. D. B. Stillman and W. F. McNutt.

The Pacific Record of Medicine and Surgery, founded by Dr. C. W. Moore in 1886, lived for some twenty years. In the beginning it was published in two languages, English and Spanish, in parallel columns. In 1898, after the death of Dr. Moore, Dr. Louis A. Kengla became editor; he changed the form from a handsome quarto to a less attractive, but probably more useful large octavo. In 1904, Dr. Kengla combined this journal and the Occidental Medical Times under his editorship.

In the more peaceful and constructive middle period of medicine in California the field of medical journalism was occupied by the Occidental Medical Times. Founded in 1887 by Dr. J. H. Parkinson as a modest local journal under the title, The Sacramento Medical Times, it soon found that its statewide field required a change of name. This was made in 1889, in its third volume. Twelve volumes were published when it was removed to San Francisco, uniting with the Pacific Record of Medicine and Surgery, as stated above, under the editorship of Dr. Louis A. Kengla, who had rejuvenated the latter journal. Ceasing publication at the death of Dr. Kengla, it had furnished for seventeen years a most excellent journal worthy of better support than it received. Its influence for better medicine in California and its influence on legislation are worthy of more space than can here be given to it.

Reading between the lines, one can appreciate that the story of medical journalism in Califor-

nia is the story of editorial enthusiasm and infinite but altogether unrequited devotion and self-sacrifice struggling against a dead weight of apathy on the part of the medical public which is difficult to understand.

Only in recent years has the medical profession, as organized in the California Medical Association, given to a local journal the support and appreciative co-operation it deserves.

1795 California Street.

**WILLIAM WATT KERR, M. B., C. M.**

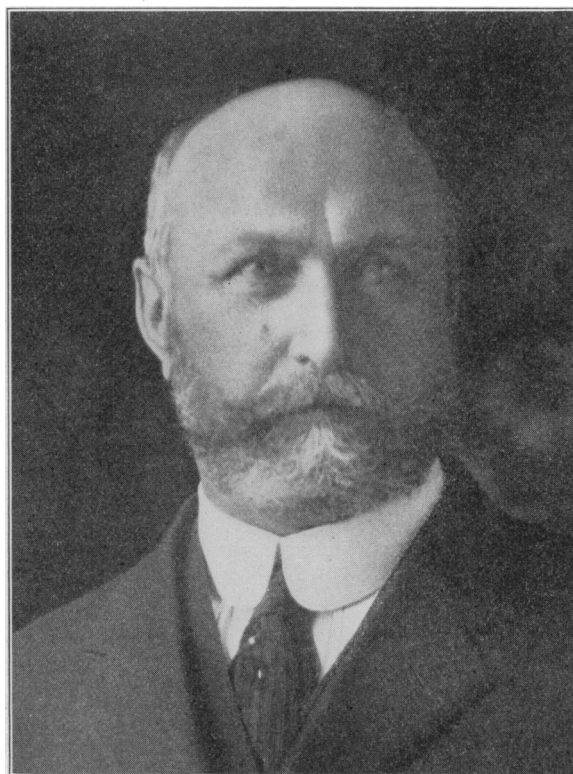
*By JOHN HOMER WOOLSEY, M. D., San Francisco*

#### EDITORIAL INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The original plans for an historical number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE provided for a number of brief sketches of the lives of medical Argonauts of California. All realize that much of what is most stimulating and helpful in medical history is reflected in the lives of medical leaders. Many such have acted their parts in the drama and romance of medicine, with the Golden West as the stage. The men and their doings are well known to those still living, but it is very difficult to find those who care to tell these useful stories.

The following brief sketch of the life of one of these medical Argonauts, whose memory is still much revered, is supplied by one of his students.

William Watt Kerr, of Scotch ancestry, educated at the University of Edinburgh, came to California



William Watt Kerr

in 1881 to begin his life's work. Starting in an humble way he rose, by 1887, to a conspicuous place in the field of Western Medicine as Professor of Therapeutics in the University of California Medical School. The following year he assumed a new title—Professor of Clinical Medicine—and contin-